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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,720	03/31/2004	Shashishekara Sitharamarao Talya	136466-1/YOD GERD:0092	7407
41838 7590 02/06/2009 GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (PCPI) C/O FLETCHER YODER P. O. BOX 692289 HOUSTON, TX 77269-2289				
EXAMINER				
VERDIER, CHRISTOPHER M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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02/06/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
10813720	3/31/2004	TALYA ET AL.	136466-1/YOD

GERD:0092

EXAMINER

Christopher Verdier

ART UNIT	PAPER
3745	20090129

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

This communication is responsive to the Order Returning Undocketed Appeal To Examiner mailed July 10, 2008.

Please replace section (9) of the Examiner's Answer mailed on September 13, 2007 with the following:

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 19-24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moody 1,776,392. Moody discloses a method for operating a Pelton turbine, comprising opening a needle valve 63 of a needle valve injector assembly 33 and a valve 63 of a high efficiency injector assembly 33 to a direct flow of water from a distributor 30 to a runner 2, and controlling the needle valve of the needle valve injector assembly to regulate a desired flow of water from the distributor to the runner, wherein the Pelton turbine comprises at least two needle valve injector assemblies 33 alternately disposed with at least two high efficiency injector assemblies 33 to provide a modulated flow of water from the needle valve injector assemblies, and further comprising controlling the high efficiency injector assemblies and the needle valve injector assemblies to provide the desired flow of water to from the distributor to the runner. The method also comprises substantially simultaneously regulating flow through a needle valve of the needle valve injector assembly and a high efficiency valve of the high efficiency injector assembly to direct a flow of water from the distributor to the runner, and controlling the needle valve injector assembly to provide a desired flow from the distributor to the runner. The high efficiency injector assemblies are automatically operated to provide a fully open flow path between the distributor and the runner in a fully opened position or to fully close the flow path between the runner and the distributor in a closed position. Also disclosed is a method for configuring the Pelton turbine, comprising disposing at least two needle valve injector assemblies 33 between the distributor and the runner of the Pelton turbine to direct flow from the distributor to the runner, and disposing at least two high efficiency injector assemblies 33 between the distributor and the runner to direct a portion of overall flow of water from the distributor to the runner, wherein the Pelton turbine comprises at least two needle valve injector assemblies 33 alternately disposed with at least two high efficiency injector assemblies 33. The at least two high efficiency injector assemblies have identical sizes.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moody 1,776,392 in view of European Patent 1,308,619. Moody discloses a method for configuring a Pelton turbine substantially as claimed as set forth above, including providing at least two needle valve assemblies 33 and at least two high efficiency injector assemblies 33, but does not disclose that the at least two needle valve assemblies 33 and at least two high efficiency injector assemblies 33 are selected based upon power requirements of the Pelton turbine and a range of flow between the distributor and the runner.

European Patent 1,308,619 (figure 1) shows a Pelton turbine having a needle valve assembly 4, which is selected, based upon power requirements of the Pelton turbine and a range of flow between an unnumbered distributor and a runner 1, for the purpose of optimizing the efficiency and power of the turbine.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to select the at least two needle valve assemblies 33 and at least two high efficiency injector assemblies 33 in the Pelton turbine of Moody based upon power requirements of the Pelton turbine and a range of flow between the distributor and the runner, as taught by European Patent 1,308,619, for the purpose of optimizing the efficiency and power of the turbine.

**/Christopher Verdier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3745**